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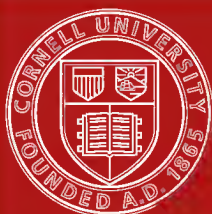
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BANQUET



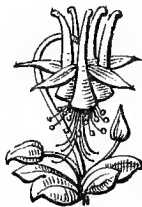
UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION PARIS 1878

THE BANQUET TO
RICHARD C. McCORMICK

COMMISSIONER-GENERAL FOR THE UNITED STATES

GIVEN IN PARIS NOVEMBER 26 1878

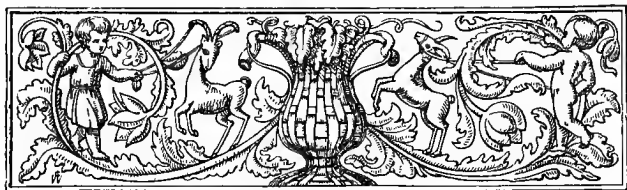
With an Account of the Testimonial presented
to him by the United States Exhibitors



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M DCCC LXXVIII



CORRESPONDENCE

PARIS, *November 7th*, 1878.

HON. R. C. McCORMICK.

DEAR SIR,



SOME of your fellow-countrymen, now in Paris, desirous of showing you their high appreciation of your valuable services as Commissioner-General of the United States to the Paris Exhibition of 1878, which have so much contributed to the success of the American Department, wish to tender you a complimentary dinner.

Hoping that you will accept, we beg you to name the day most agreeable to you.

We are, dear Sir,

Yours most respectfully,

EDWARD F. NOYES.

JOHN H. HARJES.

THOMAS W. EVANS.

JOHN MUNROE.

WM. SELIGMAN.

A. VAN BERGEN.

LUCIUS FAIRCHILD.

JOHN J. RYAN.

Committee.

PARIS, *November 8th*, 1878.

GENTLEMEN,—I have received your letter of the 7th instant, tendering me, on behalf of my countrymen in Paris, a dinner in appreciation of my services as Commissioner-General of the United States to the Universal Exhibition of 1878. The compliment, indicating, as it does, that my official labours, now about to close, are favourably considered, is highly valued, and I have pleasure in designating Tuesday, the 26th inst., as a day entirely agreeable to me, if to you, for the proposed dinner.

Respectfully and gratefully yours,

R. C. McCORMICK.

To General EDWARD F. NOYES, General LUCIUS FAIRCHILD, Dr. THOMAS W. EVANS, JOHN H. HARJES, Esq., WILLIAM SELIGMAN, Esq., JOHN MUNROE, Esq., A. VAN BERGEN, Esq., and JOHN J. RYAN, Esq.

Committee.





BANQUET

THE complimentary dinner to Commissioner-General McCormick was given at the Continental Hotel, in Paris, on the evening of November 26th, 1878.

The grand banquet hall known as the "Salle des Fêtes" was appropriately decorated with French and American flags.

At eight o'clock, about one hundred gentlemen being in attendance, the chair was taken by General EDWARD F. NOYES, United States Minister to France.

The dessert having been served, the CHAIRMAN rose and announced the first regular toast, viz.: "The President of the Republic of France."

M. DIETZ-MONNIN, Director of the French Section of the Universal Exposition, said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—Please excuse me if a French voice dares to bring you, in your own language, our most hearty compliments and our best thanks for your kind invitation.

Above all, I am very glad as a Republican, and I feel myself highly honoured, as manager of the French Section, to respond to the toast proposed by your Minister, General Noyes, by proposing to you the health of General Hayes, the glorious President of the United States, and the prosperity of our elder sister in democracy, the American Republic. Since I had the pleasure of visiting your magnificent country; since I had the opportunity of seeing with my own eyes, during your Centennial Exhibition, how rapidly a young nation is able to progress when it is ruled by the spirit of freedom, self-help, labour, and popular education, I wish only for our dear France, that after she has had the honour of fighting beside your fathers for the holy independence, she may follow now and for ever the excellent examples she receives from you.

Our Exhibition of 1878 may be considered as a first and decisive step, after our misfortunes, on the glorious way where you preceded us, and we hope you will carry away, when you leave us, this impression—that we are now rising up again by our energetic labour and free spirit. You carry away also a large number of awards for your exhibits. We are not astonished at all at your brilliant success, and are sure that if you had had more time to prepare, the awards would have been still more numerous. Nevertheless, let us thank you most heartily for your kind and valuable assistance here. Let us hope that, on both sides of the Atlantic, the old friendship between America and France, now renewed under the patronage of our excellent friend, Governor McCormick, and on the battle-field of peace and industry will grow for ever and continue for the benefit of human progress and liberty. With such feelings, gentlemen, I propose, my American friends,

a toast to the President of the United States and to the eternal friendship between the American and French Republics.

Ex-Governor FENTON, of New York, responded as follows, viz. :—

Mr. CHAIRMAN,—In my youth I was in the village of Carthage, near the city of my home residence, on an occasion when Henry Clay was present. He was called to address the people, who eagerly assembled upon the coming of one so renowned, and finally, in obedience to repeated calls, appeared before them, saying: “I cannot speak, but you can look at me.” I wish, Mr. Chairman, I could be excused, even though with like tardy reluctance, by yourself and the gentlemen here assembled, from speaking this evening. But you will not excuse me even though I shield myself behind the eminent example of the eloquent statesman of Kentucky, notwithstanding there is far less in my words than in his, and far less of interest in looking at me than at him. The occasions are different. You will all be glad to know, however, that I am to be brief.

We frequently hear it said, that it is a great thing to have lived at this time. That is, we hear it often said in the United States: meaning, I suppose, that it is more to have lived in this age of stirring events and immeasurable progress, than in any previous age. But I go farther, or rather, I narrow the object of interest, and say it is a great thing to have lived and been in this stately Capital of Europe to witness this last and greatest display of the world’s products, as epitomized at the Champ-de-Mars, during the past six months. At least, you will agree with me that it

would be one of the greatest things, if we could all have been like General McCormick. It is a good thing to surround him this evening and pay him honour.

But, Mr. Chairman, you look beyond General McCormick in your expressions of good-will towards the President of the United States. I can well understand how the President would not be overlooked by an American audience of the character of this, either abroad or at home. And I have also to thank the honourable Dietz-Monnin, of Republican France, who has just closed an eloquent address for the felicitous mention of the first citizen of our Republic. From whatever quarter, the compliment is highly deserved.

Frequently, at festivities like this, we celebrate the exaltation and achievements of men. It may be somewhat an American custom. In this instance we also celebrate the exaltation and achievements of our country—of our system, which opens up the path of free competition in the contest for the honours of life, whether the contestants be humble born or high born, rich or poor—of our system, which not only admits, but invites the most active enterprise, the largest production, the highest skill, and the most absolute material prosperity. The honour and the success of the President of the United States in promoting the public integrity at home, and in maintaining the public faith abroad, are the result, in some measure, of the free course of our institutions, and the improvement of our people in all the departments of social and political life. Our system of free popular government inspires a high sense of patriotism and honour. I do not say that this improvement and this patriotism are greater with us than with any other people. I am not free to say that.

But it is useless to ignore what we cannot deny to exist. I refer, of course, to the influence and effect of free popular government upon the development of industry, the progress of intelligence, and the perfection of character. So if we do not proclaim the circumstances of our position, and the excellence of our chief magistrate, we may at least contemplate each with honourable pride. It is a contemplation of the legitimate results of civil and religious liberty. It is what a people who remember with patriotic pride the heroic devotion to liberty of Lafayette and Washington, and Hancock and Adams, and their faithful compeers, may be expected to attain. President Hayes found honour, because honour lay in the path of duty—in the path of his country's honour. And I am sure I cannot better close the promised brief address than by inviting, in his name, as far as I can, all the people, of all the countries represented at this great World's Fair, to engage with us in the race of honourable rivalry.

The CHAIRMAN then said:—

GENTLEMEN,—We have gathered here to-night to present our respectful compliments and to offer our congratulations to a distinguished gentleman who, by the exercise of rare executive ability, the most sterling integrity, an accommodating spirit and engaging manners, has, as Commissioner-General of the United States to the Paris Exhibition, greatly honoured his Government and country.

It will be remembered that the invitation of the French authorities extended to the nations of the earth, owing to a variety of circumstances, was very tardily accepted by the Government of the United States,

and that the appropriation made by Congress was inadequate to the purposes for which it was intended. Embarrassed by want of time and lack of means, the Commissioner-General, appointed at the last moment, entered upon the discharge of his responsible duties. He has the satisfaction of knowing that his efforts have been rewarded by the universal appreciation and commendation bestowed upon the American section. Much of this success—the importance of which to the people he represents can hardly be overrated—is due to the untiring industry, the capacity, and courtesy of the Commissioner-General.

I propose the health of Governor McCormick, the guest of the evening, whom I now have the honour to introduce.

Commissioner-General McCORMICK replied:—

MR. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—For this complimentary demonstration, I make to you my most sincere and grateful acknowledgments. To have been chosen as the chief representative of my countrymen at an International Exhibition is no ordinary honour. To have succeeded in pleasing them in a position so difficult and responsible, is to have obtained the highest possible reward for my exertions.

It is a source of peculiar gratification to me that all who have been connected with the American department have worked in harmony ; that the national dignity and honour have been sustained, and that the results of our participation in the latest, and, in many respects, the richest and greatest of universal exhibitions, have exceeded our best expectations. To the nerve and promptness of the exhibitors, and to the efficiency of my staff, I am much indebted, and I

appreciate the cordial and encouraging manner in which my labours have been seconded by the diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States in Paris. With these gentlemen my relations have been of the most agreeable character.

So far as my engagements have permitted me to meet the Americans resident in Paris—the members of the American Colony, as it is familiarly called—I have found them animated by the same spirit of friendliness, and the same desire to strengthen my hands. If I have been unable to exchange social courtesies with all, it must be charged to the official demands upon my time.

To those gentlemen who accepted and performed, without compensation, the arduous and delicate work of jurors, the best thanks of the Government are due.

Mr. Chairman, you have referred to the circumstances under which the United States entered the contest of the present year. It is but just to the President and Secretary of State to say that they advised early and liberal action upon the part of Congress. It is but just, also, to all concerned, to say that the delay upon the part of that body, in authorizing participation in the Exhibition, made it necessary to do in much haste what should have been done with much deliberation. Many of our most eminent manufacturers and artisans declined to become exhibitors, saying that they could do justice neither to themselves nor to the country within the few months or weeks allowed them for preparation. Scarcely any of the articles shown in our department were prepared for the exhibition, and in view of this fact, the very general recognition of their merits by the juries must be considered especially complimentary.

The long lists of awards and honours conferred upon

our exhibitors testify to our triumph much better than any language I could employ. It has been said that no other nation exhibited so many new and valuable inventions, so many improvements whose general adoption would add to the sum of human comfort and convenience.

Let us hope that our national legislators, taking note of the success now obtained under unfavourable conditions and restraints, will afford proper time and means for preparation for future international contests in which it may be decided to take part.

Of the courtesy shown their official guests of this memorable year by the Government of France and the authorities of the Exhibition, I will only say that it has been of the character for which France is justly renowned. The preparations for the Exhibition were upon a scale worthy of a people of liberal political sentiments and having a full appreciation of the interests of the world at large.

France has nobly vindicated the strength of her new political organization and her wonderful powers of recuperation. There is a striking parallel in her recent history and that of the United States. Both Republics have, within a few short years, so completely repaired the damages of disastrous war, that the traces of conflict and disorder are hardly discernible. The results furnish the best possible proof of the ability of energetic and resolute peoples, under free institutions, to command power and prosperity in the face of all obstacles.

I have been more than pleased with the evidences which have come to my notice during the year, not only of the extreme goodwill of the European nations, but also of the confidence and high appreciation in

which they hold the government and people of the United States. The belief seems to be universal that, in fertility of invention and ingenious capacity, there is no limit to what may be achieved by the Americans, and that, as we have long known, the natural resources of our country are as inexhaustible as they are varied and valuable.

I shall return to my native land proud of this general and generous disposition to recognize the genius of her citizens, the importance of her industrial triumphs and her great capabilities and possibilities, and with an exalted estimate of the mighty mission for humanity which she is called upon to fulfil in the destinies of the world.

“She that lifts up the manhood of the poor,
She of the open soul and open door,
With room about her hearth for all mankind.”

The CHAIRMAN gave as the next toast, “The Universal Exhibition of 1878 and its success.”

M. GEORGES BERGER, Director of Foreign Sections, responded in French:—

GENTLEMEN,—I regret exceedingly my inability to express myself in your national tongue. My culpable ignorance of it is the only circumstance which can weaken the brilliant homage that I desire to render to the people of the United States for their presence at the Exhibition of 1878.

Your people were the last to come to the Champ-de-Mars. Our affection, strong enough to cross the ocean, never feared that they would be absent. We knew that they also had political and administrative difficulties to overcome. They triumphed over all

obstacles, to the honour of both countries, and for the greater success of this enterprise in the interest of civilization which has just closed. The directors of the Foreign Sections will never forget the surprising efforts that your Commissioner and your agents have made that their section should be in order at the appointed hour. I may add that our aid was of little account in presence of the ingenious activity which they displayed. They say that you are the representatives of the New World, that your nation has the privilege of youth, and consequently of strength to such a degree as to render jealous those other countries of the world that have had a longer life and a longer history. I admit it; but I take pleasure in re-affirming it by evoking the souvenirs of the Exhibition or the United States that you are young giants, capable of all the prodigies of your elders. Your vigour, born of yesterday, will be so strong to-morrow that you will be able to aid the world by the benefits of commercial liberty, as you have won its admiration by the liberality of your institutions.

Were we to judge peoples by the men that represent them, Minister Noyes and Governor McCormick bear witness that the United States marches at the head of industrial and social process. I think I may render to the persons of these two eminent citizens the homage really their due by saying that they are the happy embodiment of the most brilliant qualities of the American character.

Gentlemen, my relations with Governor McCormick have been constant and daily, and they have always been both agreeable and profitable. I am happy to say, in the presence of his compatriots assembled here, that I have never seen an administrative officer more

skilful, more devoted, more impartial, engaged in a task more formidable. France, gentlemen, has not the disinterestedness that is attributed to her. You have paid for her hospitality by bringing to her the information that two sister nations never refuse to each other. Governor McCormick found himself surrounded by Honorary Commissioners, and State Commissioners, whose merit alarmed his modesty. He has known how to live among them, giving to us the example of what a free people can do at home: unite the respect of equality with the accomplishment of duty. He will find in his own conscience, the largest recompense to which he can aspire when it tells him he has never made an enemy. France will preserve the friendly souvenir of his person, and his fellow-citizens will receive him by awarding him the palm due to the victor of peace.

I think I honour all the people of the United States in proposing a toast to Governor McCormick and all those who have worked with him: In the name of the Minister of Agriculture and of Commerce, and of the French Commissioner-General, who have not been able to be with you this evening, I thank you, gentlemen, American commissioners and exhibitors, for what you have done for France, for the civilized world, and for the cause of labour.

The CHAIRMAN gave as the next toast, "The Friendship of France and the United States."

Ex-Governor BULLOCK, of Massachusetts, said:—

Mr. PRESIDENT,—It were a strange omission in the congratulations of this evening, at the close of the Exhibition, if we should not make mention of the

mutual relations of France and the United States. The sentiment which you have formulated in a toast is a living sentiment which has a large place in our hearts. It has a place in our history. French names, fragrant with tender memories, are engraved upon the topography of our country, and there they will remain engraved in all time to come.

The agency of France in the colonization of America was among the most sublime of all historic scenes enacted on that continent, and our historians will always hold it up to the admiration of the world. There is nothing in the annals of any country more impressive or more pathetic than the sacrifices of Frenchmen in the early days of our settlement. Moving forward from post to post, always under the banner of their religion, they endured every privation, they encountered every obstacle, they suffered every severity, many of them giving up their lives in heroic martyrdom, repeating in the last hour the Latin hymns of their Church—hymns which, even then, were a thousand years old.

At a later period, it is true, there came the conflict of arms between France and the American colonists in the interest of the crown of another country. But it is our just congratulation that such conflict at its close left no root of bitterness inhering on either side. And I count it one of the felicities of our history—a felicity which has few parallels in the records of any country—that since the Treaty of Peace of 1763, signed, I believe, at Fontainebleau, covering now a period of one hundred and twenty-five years, there has existed an uninterrupted and unruffled cordial goodwill between these two countries.

After France, under the Treaty, had vacated her

place on that continent every retribution of events tended to bring the two peoples nearer and nearer together. The Duke de Choiseul, who was then in charge here of Foreign Affairs, turned his far-sighted sagacity to the benefit of our enfranchisement; and if you will read his despatches to the French Minister at London, you will be struck by the sagacity of his prophecy, and your hearts will warm under the manifestations of his good wishes towards the American people. He, at that early day, was preparing the way for the broader and more decisive policy, which, under the next reign, culminated in tendering us a helping hand to take our place as an independent nation of the world.

And now the connection brings me more closely to the late Exhibition. We may well rejoice that American mechanism has challenged and received such favour. As I have stood in its presence at the Exhibition, I have thought of some of the recompenses of history.

Coming down only fifteen years from the Treaty of Fontainebleau, we find an American mechanic establishing his residence in the City of Paris. It was he, the foremost mechanic of the colonies of that day, whose name is still borne as a part of the title name of many of the mechanical institutes of the United States, who secured to us the friendship and alliance of France for our revolutionary struggle. His quaint and amiable character, his original and remarkable genius, gave him such a hold in the love and veneration of this friendly Court, that the art of drawing was called in to perpetuate his lineaments and theirs for the future remembrance of the two countries. And I have thought, when looking at the picture of Franklin at the Court of France, that the American mechanic, philosopher, and

statesman was constructing better than he knew, better than they knew, for he was giving the touch of destiny to two Republics. He forged the chain of alliance which drew out of the chaos of many colonies the one union of the North American Republic. But the great event was destined to produce not less conspicuous results upon this side of the ocean than upon the other. It was one of those lessons which turn the scale in the fate of nations. It was a lesson which applied its instruction with equal beneficent effects upon the wide theatre of Europe—out of which the benefactors of our freedom soon became the beneficiaries of their own—out of which, though for long intervals baffled and overborne here, yet never extinguished, we welcome with all our hearts the living and visible presence of the Republic of France.

At the recent distribution of prizes, when the flag of our distant country came into the building, under the guardian custody of those manly representatives of American discipline, you saw, and heard, and felt the plaudits which rang over the vast amphitheatre, with a freshness and heartiness which, it seemed to me, was accorded in no equal degree to any other nationality. It was the tribute of Frenchmen and Frenchwomen—I saw thousands of the women of France around me who rivalled the enthusiasm of the colder and sterner sex. It was the spontaneous tribute of Frenchmen and Frenchwomen to the fond recollections of the past. The memories of d'Estaing and Franklin, of Lafayette and Washington, floated in the very air. I do not know how you may have felt, and yet, after all, I think I do. I felt in the satisfaction of that moment, that if I were not an American, I would be only too proud and too happy to be a Frenchman.

Heaven grant that the scene may descend into permanent history, and that the two countries whose mutual friendship has not been seriously interrupted by a passing cloud in all these hundred years, may now, in the presence of the greatest triumph of modern industry, renew their devotion to the arts of peace, and move forward upon their joint and separate mission of maintaining liberty protected by law.

The CHAIRMAN gave as the next toast, "The Commercial Relations of France and the United States."

General LUCIUS FAIRCHILD, United States Consul-General at Paris, responded:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—It seems cruel, after the beautiful addresses with which we have been favoured this evening, to call your attention to dull facts and figures, but in no other way can I respond to the toast you have assigned me. The commercial relations of France and the United States relate only to the movements of merchandise between the two countries. We have held amicable commercial relations with each other for very many long years. But do the best we can, we Americans have not been enabled to sell to France as much as she has sold to us. We buy largely from her. For the ten years including 1876, the average annual value of the exports from France to the United States was 328,617,000fr., while the average of the exports from the United States to France was 206,680,000fr., showing an average annual balance of trade against us of 124,837,000 fr. For the ten preceding years, 1857-66, the exportations from France to the United States averaged in value annually 233,803,000fr., while the annual average value

exportation from the United States to France was only 183,864,000fr., showing an average annual balance of trade against us of 49,939,000fr. In 1877 France sold us merchandise valued at 318,436,968fr., and we sold to France merchandise valued at 280,306,096fr., so that the balance of trade against us was only 38,130,872fr., a better showing for us than for the two preceding years.

It is said that the revenue laws of the two countries are bars to trade, and we know that the question is being largely discussed on both sides of the ocean. For one, I am glad to have the discussion go on. If there is need of change in the laws, the common ground of agreement as to what alterations are required for the interests of both parties will be found, and it can never be found without. We sell to France cotton, tobacco, cereals, grease (not oils), crude and refined petroleum, and a large number of other products. We do not sell largely of manufactures, which under more favourable circumstances we might do. We buy of France silk goods, woollen goods, fine skins and fine furs, wines, straw goods, and small wares, that is, buttons, trimmings, etc., in great varieties. We buy all these articles of France.

To indicate the character of the merchandise which passes between the two countries, I need only mention the following facts: 683 vessels arrived in France from the United States in 1877. Of that number only four arrived in ballast. On the other hand, 745 vessels sailed from France to the United States during the same period, of which 224 only sailed with cargoes, and 521 cleared in ballast.

I regret that the proposed exhibition of the variety of ways in which our Indian corn may be used for food was not carried out at the Universal Exhibition.

It might have been worth millions of dollars not only to the United States but also to France. But I know that Commissioner-General McCormick has had his hands full and too many demands upon his limited appropriation and time to permit him to indulge in experiments.

I congratulate and compliment him, and his staff, most heartily upon the success which has crowned their arduous labours.

The CHAIRMAN gave as the next toast, "The Army and Navy of the United States."

Captain O. C. BADGER, of the U.S. ship "Constitution," said in response :—

Mr. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—I am honoured by your call, and thank you for the toast to the Army and Navy of the United States. The officers of the vessels sent to Havre with goods for the American Department at the Universal Exposition recognize and appreciate the services of Commissioner-General McCormick. I concur in all that has been said regarding his energy and efficiency, and I am much pleased with his success and that of our exhibitors, who have won so many prizes and so much honour for our nation. How well our goods are esteemed in Europe is shown in the fact that two ships will have sufficient freight capacity to carry back to the United States all that remain unsold. I wish to bear testimony to the cordial reception and uniform courtesy shown me and my fellow officers of the Navy by the French Minister of Marine and by the port authorities at Havre.

The Chairman stated that no other toasts had been suggested by the Committee of Arrangements,

but that as the hour was not late, he should take the liberty of calling out several gentlemen from whom he knew the company would be glad to hear.

M. A. CAUBERT, of Paris, said in French :—

MR. CHAIRMAN and GENTLEMEN,—Permit me to thank you all for the honour conferred upon me by inviting me to the complimentary dinner to the honourable Commissioner-General McCormick, who has so greatly contributed to the success of the United States Section in the Champ-de-Mars.

There can be no sympathy for a Frenchman more precious than that which comes from the blessed land of Independence. The Exhibition of 1878 has confirmed the verdict of your splendid Centennial of 1876 at Philadelphia. It has proved once more—*urbi et orbi*—what the genius of a great people, within one century, can accomplish when it has for auxiliaries labour, liberty, and free-schools for all classes.

I have already had the good fortune, still too rare, even in our days, among Europeans, to visit three times your wonderful country. More than any other, it seems to conform itself to the designs of Providence, for every year it devotes the largest part of its resources to maintain schools—that is to say, to render humanity more perfect. Whilst, in the Old World, we still devote the bulk of our resources to the casting of cannon, and the improvement of arms and engines of destruction. Would not one say, in truth, that industry was choked with applicants for labour? The *modus vivendi* of the United States has already borne fruit, for a broad current of immigration has increased its population tenfold and fertilized a considerable portion of its wide territory. Thanks to the friendly

relations of the two Republics, the end of the nineteenth century will witness many other wonders.

Without doubt, gentlemen, at the beginning of our great international enterprise—a little hazardous, perhaps—on the morning of our disasters, two opposing currents existed. You know the causes. But the good one triumphed. Thanks, especially, to the President and the Congress of the United States. Without their co-operation success would have been doubtful ; with it, success was certain.

We beg, therefore, our good friend, Governor McCormick, on the eve of his departure, which we so much regret, to be, at Washington, the interpreter of our profound and very sincere gratitude. We will not say to him *adieu*, but *au revoir*, for we hope very soon to be able to be present with you all, gentlemen, at the inauguration, in the beautiful harbour of New York, of the Statue of Liberty, offered by France to our beloved sister of the New World. I have the honour to propose to you, in closing, a toast:—"To the health of all those who, in giving their support to the Exhibition of Paris, have so nobly and liberally contributed to exalt the civilization of France."

After the toast had been duly honoured, the Chairman announced the presence of Professor J. Lawrence Smith, of Kentucky, who had been prominently identified with previous International Exhibitions.

Professor SMITH said :—

Mr. CHAIRMAN,—I had not the pleasure of knowing Governor McCormick personally until after my recent arrival in Paris. I had heard much of him and of his good management. When I found a man so clear-

headed and prompt, I was not surprised at his success as Commissioner-General.

I want also to say something about his distinguished namesake who has won fresh triumphs at the Exhibition of 1878. A man who, unlike Cyrus of old, did not pave his way to victory and honours over the bodies of the dead and dying, illuminating his path by burning cities and villages—but who gained his honours by making his way over the fast-falling stalks of wheat in full ear, and then gracefully gathering them into rich sheaves to fill the garner of the farmers. The inventor of the reaping-machine, Cyrus H. McCormick, has been a benefactor to humanity. While he has not made two blades of grass to grow where one grew before, he has made two blades of wheat as cheap as one, and helped to bless the world with cheap food. While I would not do injustice to others, it is but justice to say that Cyrus H. McCormick made the reaping-machine a *fait accompli*, nearly thirty years ago, but the world was some time in realizing its value.

In 1851, at the first great International Exhibition in London, his machine, as it stood in the hall of the Exhibition, was only a source of merriment to the lookers-on, who called it a cross between an Astley chariot, a wheelbarrow, and a flying-machine. But when this strange-looking object was taken to the field, the jurors were amazed as they saw the wheat-straw fall before it, in regular order, upon the ground, requiring many labourers to bind into sheaves the wheat as it fell. They then did honour to this strange animal, and gave to its father a Council Medal, a token of the appreciation of the jury, composed of men from all parts of the world. There were only four Council

Medals that went to America. From that time to the present improvement upon improvement has been added to the reaper, and the inventor's honours have accumulated upon him, and his honours have become ours as Americans.

So, gentlemen, let us drink to the health of our absent friend, Cyrus H. McCormick, who would be with us now were he not detained in a sick room, rapidly recovering, I am glad to say, from a serious illness.

Colonel J. A. BRIDGLAND, United States Consul at Havre, being called upon by the Chairman, spoke substantially as follows:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN,—Nothing that I can say is needed to confirm the success of Commissioner-General McCormick, and the claim he has upon our gratitude. In the United States, where I have just been upon a visit, as in France, it is everywhere admitted that he has admirably performed a great and difficult mission.

President Hayes spoke of him to me in most complimentary terms, and the American people will not forget his faithful and honourable services in Paris. Mr. Chairman, you have humorously alluded to my recent importation of American horses into France. With regard to the capacity of the United States for furnishing horses to Europe, I may say that we have some 14,000,000 horses in America, 2,000,000 of which are too small for the general work of the country. They are not fast trotters in comparison with the celebrities of late years, who make their mile in two minutes, therefore they are of little use to Americans. But no animals can be better fitted for cavalry service.

They have a fine action, plenty of endurance, and good habits.

Time will not permit me to say more than that I believe the importation of American horses for use in France may become a source of large profit to our country.

The CHAIRMAN called on General P. D. Roddey, of Alabama, saying :—

I never met that distinguished gentleman but once before, and that was some fifteen years ago, and I am very happy to meet him here to-night.

General RODDEY replied :—

At that meeting which you mention, Mr. Chairman, you had me at a great disadvantage (alluding to the fight at Corinth when General Noyes was inside, and General Roddey outside the fort). But you have taken me now at a still greater disadvantage. I did not expect to be called upon for a speech, and will only add my concurrence in all that has been said in praise of Governor McCormick, who, I am sure, has given the utmost satisfaction to all Americans connected with the Exhibition.

The CHAIRMAN said the Collective Education Exhibit formed a most interesting part of the Exhibition upon the part of the United States, and had received a remarkable recognition at the hands of the jurors and the scholars and students of Europe. He proposed the health of Dr. John D. Philbrick, of Massachusetts, the Superintendent of the Educational Section of the American Department.

Dr. PHILBRICK said substantially :—

The credit of its successes, as indicated by the constant

succession of interested visitors, and the large number of awards by the International Jury, were very largely due to Governor McCormick, who took the initiative and the responsibility of its preparation, and who generously and considerately did all that the means at his command would permit to perfect its arrangements and provisions. As an educator he could not but regard this greatest of all the Universal Exhibitions as a universal school, in which all participants were at once pupils and teachers, with the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce as the director-in-chief. The greatest lesson taught by this and the preceding exhibitions was that the first people in respect to the capacity to produce articles of utility and beauty is the people which has the best schools. Hence, at the present day, every enlightened statesman, the world over, who wishes his country to compete successfully in the grand concourse of the industries, labours to perfect its schools.

Dr. Philbrick concluded by expressing his thanks for the assistance, the courtesies, and the hospitality which he had received in the discharge of his duties, from the French educational officials of all grades, from the Minister of Public Instruction to the teachers in the elementary schools.

The CHAIRMAN read the following telegram from Sir Philip Cunliffe Owen, Secretary of the Royal British Commission, to the Universal Exposition:—

LONDON, *November 26, 1878.*

To the Chairman of the Banquet to Commissioner-General McCormick, Continental Hotel, Paris.

SIR,—I have explained by letter to Governor McCor-

mick that unavoidable absence by command has alone prevented my having the pleasure of joining you in doing honour to my friend the able Commissioner-General for the United States.

PHILIP CUNLIFFE OWEN.

The CHAIRMAN announced that letters had been received by the Committee of Arrangements from General U. S. Grant, the French Commissioner-General (Senator J. B. Krantz), and Sir Philip Cunliffe Owen, Secretary of the British Commission.

The company then adjourned to the reception and smoking rooms, and separated shortly after midnight.





LETTERS RECEIVED

From GENERAL U. S. GRANT

MALAGA, SPAIN, *November 18, 1878.*

DEAR SIR,—

I HAVE the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your kind invitation, on behalf of a Committee of Americans, to a Complimentary Dinner to be given Governor McCormick, on the twenty-sixth of this month, and I regret that my engagements are such that I cannot be in Paris at so early a day.

Recognizing the eminent services of Governor McCormick, as Chief Commissioner of the United States to the recent International Exposition, at Paris, I would not fail to be present if it were possible.

Please thank the Committee for their invitation.

Truly yours,

U. S. GRANT.

JOHN MUNROE, ESQ.

Secretary of Committee.

From SENATOR J. B. KRANTZ, *Commissioner-General of the Universal Exposition.*

PARIS, November 22, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—



NOTWITHSTANDING the great pleasure it would give me to be present at your Dinner in honour of the Commissioner-General of the United States, I dare not promise to attend, as I am, at the present time, afflicted with a sprained ankle. Should I recover sufficiently by the 26th, I shall be with you.

In the meantime I beg that you will receive, for yourself and your colleagues, my affectionate thanks.

Receive, my dear sir, the assurance of my perfect consideration.

J. B. KRANTZ.

To MR. JOHN MUNROE,
Secretary,

From SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE OWEN, *Secretary of the British Commission.*

SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM,
LONDON, Nov. 23, 1878.

MY DEAR SIR,—



I HAD promised myself the pleasure of returning to Paris to-morrow night, to have the opportunity of showing, by my presence, my approval of the compliments which your countrymen are to pay you at the banquet on Tuesday next.

But I have been summoned to attend Her Majesty's commands on Wednesday next, at Windsor, when it is Her Majesty's intention to confer upon me the honour of knighthood in connection with the distinguished order she has been pleased to give to me.

Should I go to Paris, I must leave that city at the hour your banquet is to begin. I shall therefore not be able to respond in person to the invitation of your countrymen, or to join in bearing public testimony to the manner in which you have done honour to your country, and by which you have gained the esteem and admiration of all who have had the privilege of coming in contact with you.

Believe me ever, my dear Governor,

Your sincere friend,

PHILIP CUNLIFFE OWEN.

To GOVERNOR McCORMICK.

*From SENATOR TEISSERENC DE BORT, Minister of
Agriculture and Commerce.*

VERSAILLES, 27th November, 1878.

SIR,—



HAD accepted with peculiar pleasure the invitation which was sent to me by the Committee of American residents in Paris, to assist at the farewell banquet offered to the honourable Mr. McCormick, the Commissioner-General for the United States.

I had wished to seize upon the occasion to felicitate

and thank the great nation of America, our dear sister Republic, for her large and brilliant participation in our Universal Exposition.

I had also proposed to myself to render public and well-merited homage to the talent displayed by Commissioner-General McCormick and his assistants in the organization of the Exhibition on the part of the United States ; and to the prompt co-operation they have always given us, and to the cordiality of the relations which have existed between us.

Finally, I had wished to speak of the striking success which has attended the intelligent efforts and skilful exertions of the Americans.

But an unexpected official duty detained me at Versailles, and made it impossible for me to be at the banquet.

I now express to you my lively regrets, and pray you to interpret them to the Committee and to the Commissioner-General.

I offer to you at the same time the expression of my distinguished consideration.

The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce,
TEISSERENC DE BORT.

To MR. JOHN MUNROE, Secretary.





TRIBUTE
OF THE
EXHIBITORS





CORRESPONDENCE

PARIS, *October 30, 1878.*

HON. R. C. McCORMICK, Commissioner-General.

DEAR SIR,—

 HE undersigned, a Committee on behalf of a number of Exhibitors from the United States, desire that you will name a day on which said Exhibitors can wait upon you for the purpose of expressing their personal esteem and appreciation of your faithful, efficient, and honourable services as Commissioner-General for the United States to the Universal Exposition of 1878.

Very truly yours,

J. O. WOODS, of Wheeler and Wilson Manufacturing
Co.

HERMAN MARCUS, of Tiffany and Co.

E. T. BELL, of W. J. Wilcox and Co.

W. R. PAGE, of Howe Scale Co.

GEO. R. OSTHEIMER, of Ostheimer Brothers.

PARIS, *November 1, 1878.*

GENTLEMEN,—



BEG you to accept my best thanks for your very complimentary communication of the 30th ult. Please inform the Exhibitors that it will gratify me to receive them, or so many of them as can make it convenient to attend, at my rooms in the Hotel Windsor, Rue de Rivoli, on Thursday evening, the 7th instant, at eight o'clock.

Very sincerely yours,

R. C. McCORMICK.

To MESSRS. J. O. WOODS,

HERMAN MARCUS,

E. T. BELL,

W. R. PAGE,

GEO. R. OSTHEIMER,

} *Committee.*



TRIBUTE OF THE EXHIBITORS



THE Exhibitors in the United States Department of the Universal Exposition, to the number of fifty or more (many having returned to the United States), met at the Hotel Windsor, on Thursday evening, November 7th, 1878, at eight o'clock.

Shortly after that hour Mr. J. O. Woods, Chairman of the Committee, addressed Commissioner-General McCormick in the following words, viz.:—

MR. COMMISSIONER-GENERAL,—A number of the exhibitors in the American Section of the International Exhibition have charged me with the pleasant office of thanking you for your faithful and impartial services in their behalf, and expressing to you their sentiments of personal regard.

We are proud of our flattering success as exhibitors, but more proud of the patriotic and honourable men who have officially represented our interests in connection with the Exhibition, and we are glad to present them to the Old World as the product of our free institutions.

We profit by this occasion to thank, through you, the President and Congress of the United States for the facilities placed at our disposal, and we desire to thank the members of the International Jury for their efficient and successful labours. We wish to express, also, our appreciation of our treatment by the Exhibition authorities, and of the many courtesies shown us by the liberal and sympathetic Government of Republican France, which has preserved in our generation the spirit of friendship so long existing between the two nations.

Sir, please receive herewith the works of art in bronze, called "Venus Armed" and an "Egyptian Priestess," purchased for you from the French Department of the Exhibition, by the voluntary contributions of American exhibitors, as a testimonial of their gratitude and esteem. As long as bronze shall last, may they be a pleasing memorial of the Exhibition of 1878, and of our entire satisfaction with your official and personal conduct in connection therewith.

Mr. McCORMICK spoke in reply as follows, viz. :—

SIR,—I am deeply sensible of the compliment you have paid me on behalf of the United States exhibitors at the Universal Exhibition.

It was not without hesitation that I accepted the office of Commissioner-General. To represent a great people abroad is, under any circumstances, a delicate duty. To do so at an International Exhibition is to undertake a peculiar responsibility. I am not blind to the fact that, however much of energy and care I may have given, the success of the American department is mainly due to the exhibitors. Their prompt response at short notice, and the part they have taken, in many

instances at a large outlay, are creditable to their enterprise and public spirit, and well illustrate the character which has given the American people a commanding position among the nations of the earth.

The results of the Exhibition leave us nothing of which to be ashamed, but much in which to take pride and satisfaction.

If not as showy and fascinating as some of the departments, ours has abounded in articles calculated to promote the convenience and comfort of mankind. The eminently useful and practical character of our inventions, and the value of our products were so apparent as to generally compel recognition at the hands of the jurors.

In a wide field of competition, and under many disadvantages, we have received, in proportion to the number of our exhibits more awards than any other nation participating in the Exhibition.

It is true that while many Americans have received awards, a few, of the merits of whose exhibits there can be no question, have been overlooked. This seems inevitably the case at every great Exhibition. It does not necessarily follow, however, that such exhibitors will have visited Paris in vain. The people of Europe have acted as jurors themselves, and doubtless discovered the worth of all articles of real merit.

The relations of the exhibitors with each other and with the Exhibition authorities have been uniformly harmonious and pleasant, and I concur with you in appreciating highly the welcome we have received from the Government of France—a welcome the more to be valued by us as coming from a sister Republic, which must have its life and power in the hearts of the people.

The two Republics may well be proud of their vic-

tories of peace, victories which the poet has well said are not less renowned than those of war, and the world may rejoice that all which tends to stimulate intelligence, industry and profitable rivalry, has received a fresh impulse in this eventful and triumphant year.

Again I thank you and all who have contributed to the success of the American department. To have won from the exhibitors such expressions of appreciation as you have uttered in their behalf will go far to compensate me for the constant, and often perplexing, labour which my official duty has involved since December last.

The stately and artistic figures in bronze, which you now present to me in such graceful terms, will be preserved as an enduring evidence of the friendship and goodwill of the exhibitors, and ever prized as a memento of most pleasant official and personal relations.

Mr. Woods then presented Mrs. McCormick a superb basket of flowers, and the visitors were invited to a collation, over which there was great good cheer.





ACCOMPANYING the works of art the Commissioner-General was presented with a handsomely bound volume containing the following address and signatures of exhibitors, viz:—

*To the HONORABLE RICHARD C. McCORMICK,
Commissioner-General of the United States at the
Paris Exposition, 1878.*

DEAR SIR,—We, exhibitors of the United States at the Paris Exposition of 1878, beg you to accept the accompanying objects of art, as a testimonial of our cordial personal esteem and high appreciation of your faithful and efficient services as Commissioner-General at said Exposition.

Congratulating you upon the very successful results of your administration,

We are, very respectfully,

J. O. WOODS.

HERMAN MARCUS.

E. T. BELL.

W. R. PAGE.

GEO. R. OSTHEIMER.

} Com-
mittee.

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